

John C. Trube House
1621-27 Sealy Avenue
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS No. TX-299

HABS
TEX
84-GALV
40-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN C. TRUBE HOUSE

HABS No. TX-299

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TEX
84-GALV,
40-

Location: 1621-27 Sealy Avenue, Galveston, Galveston
County, Texas.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Edwin A. Trube.

Significance: The house is representative of the Romantic Revival style in vogue at the end of the nineteenth century. Alfred Muller, the architect, was proficient in this German eclectic style and designed two other notable Galveston buildings in the same exuberant spirit. Trube was a prominent merchant and real estate dealer in Galveston.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Alfred Muller, architect.
3. Contractor: John W. Pope contracted with Trube to erect the house according to Muller's plans at a cost of \$9,700.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

At this writing, no history on this house or its original owner is available.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

J. W. Pope with J. C. Trube, Building Contract, March 11, 1890,
Deed Records, Book 76, pp. 572-79, Galveston County
Courthouse.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 15, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a two-and-a-half story Gothic building and has a mansard roof with twelve gables and a flat deck on top. The major floor is treated as a "piano nobile" and the lower floor as a raised basement. The building is elaborately detailed and largely in its original state.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Probably brick piers.
2. Wall construction: Brick stuccoed to resemble stone.
3. Structural system: All walls are load bearing and framing is wood.
4. Porch: The entrance porch is circular in plan and reached by a flight of steps from the ground. It is supported by unfluted adapted Ionic columns having ornate impost blocks.
5. Chimneys: Major exterior chimney on 17th Street has a divided flue and is elaborately decorated.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Double entrance doors are paneled and heavily molded. Glass transom above.
 - b. Windows: The windows are double-hung wood sash, two-over-two lights and some have stained glass transoms. Attic windows are six-light casements.

7. Roof: Mansard roof intersected by numerous dormers. Shingles are slate and the flat deck is a modern built-up roof with gravel topping.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: A small vestibule opens onto a centrally located stair hall. The various rooms are arranged in characteristic Victorian fashion. The attic space is divided into numerous small rooms and alcoves while the basement is an arrangement of several large rooms.
2. Stairway: The central stair is a quarter-turn design with landings. Railing, newel post and balusters are characteristic of the period.
3. Floor: Floors are pine center-match.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Beaded ceiling pine wainscot on main floor walls, paper above. One room opening onto central stair hall finished in embossed metal.
5. Doors: Doors have six molded panels with four panel transom above.
6. Trim: Wood trim characteristic of the period.
7. Hardware: Mortice locks, butt hinges; typical.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Modern gas. Original fireplaces were coal burning.
 - b. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The building is located on lot 1, Block 196 and faces north on Sealy Avenue.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc., and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr., acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Ailen Stross in the summer of 1967.